

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated July 9, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is filed within the three-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account 50-0951.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 4-14, and 17-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0010715 to Chinn, *et al.* (hereinafter Chinn), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,378 to Schuba, *et al.* (hereinafter Schuba), and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,269,336 to Ladd, *et al.* (hereinafter Ladd) and U.S. Published Patent Application 2004/0006478 to Alpdemir (hereinafter Alpdemir).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 5 to incorporate limitations of Claims 29 and 30, respectively, in order to facilitate prosecution of the instant application. Since Claims 29 and 30 have been indicated in the Office Action as containing allowable subject matter, Claims 1 and 5 are now believed to be allowable. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claims 1 or 5 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims are likewise allowable.

Applicants have also cancelled Claims 2-3 and 14-30. However, Applicants are not conceding that the remaining claims as originally formulated or the cancelled claims fail to present patentable subject matter. The amendments and cancellations are solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution. Accordingly, neither the amendments nor cancellations should be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter, and Applicants

expressly reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 29 and 30 were deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The features of Claims 29 and 30 have been added to Claims 1 and 5, respectively, as discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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